

# Non-supersymmetric Microstates of the MSW System

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## Abstract

We present an analysis parallel to that of Giusto, Ross, and Saxena (arXiv:0708.3845) and construct a discrete family of non-supersymmetric microstate geometries of the Maldacena-Strominger-Witten system. The supergravity configuration in which we look for the smooth microstates is constructed using  $SO(4,4)$  dualities applied to an appropriate seed solution. The  $SO(4,4)$  approach offers certain technical advantages. Our microstate solutions are smooth in five dimensions, as opposed to all previously known non-supersymmetric microstates with  $AdS_3$  cores, which are smooth only in six dimensions. The decoupled geometries for our microstates are related to global  $AdS_3 \times S^2$  by spectral flows.

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# 1 Introduction

Although string theory has made significant progress on counting the number of microstates responsible for black hole entropy [1], it has not yet given a satisfactory answer about their gravitational description. An outstanding open problem in the physics of black holes is to understand the gravitational description of such microstates. In the last decade or so, developments inspired by AdS/CFT and supergravity have offered us tools to explore these issues. The best studied example in this regard is the supersymmetric D1-D5 system.

Studies related to the D1-D5 system broadly fall into two parts: (i) those related to the five-dimensional black hole with 2-charges, and (ii) those related to the five-dimensional black hole with 3-charges. The gravitational description of the microstates of the 2-charge black hole has been explicitly constructed [2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9] and their entropy has been successfully accounted for [10, 11] (see also [12, 13]). However, since the horizon area of the corresponding black hole in the absence of higher-derivative corrections to supergravity is exactly zero, the true nature of the black hole entropy requires further exploration. See for instance references [14, 15] for discussions on this point. For the 3-charge black hole in five-dimensions, many explicit microstates are known [16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22]. The gravitational description of these so-called ‘microstate geometries’—smooth horizonless solutions in supergravity—is possible due to non-trivial topology and charges dissolved in magnetic fluxes, as recently highlighted in [23]. However, a detailed understanding of the space of solutions and the validity of the supergravity approximation in describing such states is still far from complete. Similar developments have been made for other systems as well. This collection of ideas go under the name of the “fuzzball” proposal [24]. We refer the reader to reviews [24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29] for detailed discussions and further references on these ideas.

The results mentioned above are all for supersymmetric black holes. It is an important and daunting task to extend the success of supersymmetric solutions to more general non-supersymmetric settings, in particular to non-extremal black holes. These are qualitatively different from supersymmetric solutions as now the black holes have non-zero temperature, so they Hawking radiate. Only a handful of solutions are known that can potentially describe appropriate non-supersymmetric microstates [30, 31, 32, 33].<sup>1</sup> Among these the solutions of references [30, 31, 32] have near core  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3$  regions. These geometries are smooth in six dimensions. A natural problem is to extend such studies to four-dimensional black holes (or five dimensional

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<sup>1</sup>There is a considerable body of work on extremal, non-supersymmetric smooth and non-smooth multi-center solutions, see e.g., [34, 35, 36, 37, 38], and reference [39] for a review. We do not consider solutions of these type in this paper.

black strings). In the BPS setting some such analysis already exist [40]. A construction of non-supersymmetric microstates that are smooth in five dimensions has not been attempted.

In this paper we aim to find non-supersymmetric smooth solutions with core region as  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^2$ . Our interest in  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^2$  arises from the fact that M-theory on  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^2 \times \text{T}^6$  is dual to a 1+1 dimensional Maldacena-Strominger-Witten (MSW) CFT [41]. MSW CFT is qualitatively different from the D1-D5 CFT. The previous studies of non-supersymmetric smooth solutions [30, 31, 32] have focused on the D1-D5 system. Our results establish the existence of non-supersymmetric microstate geometries in five dimensions that correspond to states in the MSW CFT. We expect that by adding further charges on our microstate geometries it should be possible to construct dual of MSW states that can potentially describe microstates of certain 4d black hole.

The MSW CFT has (4,0) supersymmetry and is much less understood than the D1-D5 CFT. We hope that through supergravity analysis like the one performed in this paper one can make some (at least qualitative) progress on understanding the nature of the MSW CFT. We base this expectation on the fruitful application of a bottom-up approach to the D1-D5 system, in particular by considering microstate geometries. It was very instructive to consider the Maldacena-Maoz [3] solution and its various generalizations [16, 17, 18, 19, 30]. Such studies improved our understanding of short and long string sectors, various twist sectors, and the orbifold nature of the D1-D5 CFT. Furthermore, the study of the non-BPS solutions of [30] led to the identification of their classical instability [42] with Bose-enhanced Hawking radiation [43]. A clear understanding of the similar issues for the MSW system is still lacking in the literature.

Unfortunately, there is no systematic way of going about finding new five-dimensional non-supersymmetric smooth solutions. We follow the same approach as [30, 31], where we first construct a suitable general family of supergravity configurations, and then find constraints on the parameters to obtain smooth solutions. As far as technicalities of our construction are concerned, our set-up is directly related to the set-up studied by Giusto, Ross, and Saxena (GRS) [31]. GRS study non-supersymmetric microstates of the D1-D5-KK system, which upon dimensional reduction over a circle and dualities is related to our set-up. Many details of our analysis are however different from theirs. In particular, details related to the study of the BPS limit, smoothness analysis, and decoupling limit differ. In addition we explicitly show that the decoupled geometries for our microstates are related to global  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^2$  by spectral flows and we also compute the corresponding conformal weights in the MSW CFT. The analog of this study in the context of D1-D5-KK CFT is missing in [31].

The rest of the paper is organised as follows. In section 2 we present a concise and self-contained summary of the supergravity configuration we work with. A detailed construction of

these fields is relegated to appendices A and B. In section 3.1 we discuss the BPS limit of the configuration presented in section 2 and discuss its smoothness. In section 3.2 we show how to obtain the (singular) M5-M5-M5 MSW black string limit. This M5-M5-M5 limit is precisely the “reverse process” of what Bena and Warner [20, 27] have called “geometric transition.” In section 4 via a systematic search in the parameter space we find values of parameters at which all singularities can be removed. These solutions are specified by the three M5 charges, one M2 charge, and an integer parameter  $n$ . For  $n = 1$  the solution reduces to the supersymmetric solution discussed in section 3. For all values  $n > 1$  the solutions are non-supersymmetric. In this section we also perform a detailed regularity analysis, and show that this discrete family of solutions is free from curvature singularities, horizons, and closed time-like curves. We also show that all the matter fields are regular and that the metric is regular at what GRS call “corners.” In section 5 we take a decoupling limit of the solution and exhibit  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^2$  as the near core geometry. In this section we also show that the decoupled geometries are related to global  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^2$  by spectral flows, and compute the corresponding conformal weights in the MSW CFT. We end in section 6 with a summary and a brief discussion of open problems.

## 2 Supergravity configuration

In this section we write the five-dimensional solution that will be the basis for the smooth microstates in the later parts of the paper. It is a solution of five-dimensional  $\text{U}(1)^3$  supergravity, the so-called STU truncation of the maximal five-dimensional supergravity where one keeps only two vector multiplets. This section is self-contained — we explicitly list all notation required to write the metric and the matter fields. Details of the construction of this configuration, including the uplift to IIB theory on a  $\text{T}^4$ , can be found in appendices A and B.

We have in coordinates  $(\rho, x = \cos \theta, \phi, t, z_5)$

$$ds_5^2 = f^2(dz_5 + \check{A}_{[1]}^0)^2 + f^{-1}ds_4^2, \quad (2.1)$$

$$ds_4^2 = -e^{2U}(dt + \omega_3)^2 + e^{-2U}ds_3^2, \quad (2.2)$$

$$ds_3^2 = \frac{F}{\Delta}d\rho^2 + \frac{F}{1-x^2}dx^2 + (1-x^2)\Delta d\phi^2, \quad (2.3)$$

where

$$f = \frac{\sqrt{AD}}{(\tilde{H}_2\tilde{H}_3(D + As_2^2s_3^2V_0^2))^{1/3}}, \quad e^{2U} = \frac{F}{\sqrt{AD}}, \quad (2.4)$$

$$F = \rho^2 + m^2 - b^2x^2, \quad \Delta = \rho^2 + m^2 - b^2. \quad (2.5)$$

The various quantities appearing in these expressions are as follows

$$A = F + 2p \left[ \rho + \frac{(pq - m^2)}{(p + q)} + b \frac{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2} \sqrt{q^2 + m^2}}{m(p + q)} x \right], \quad (2.6)$$

$$B = F + 2q \left[ \rho + \frac{(pq - m^2)}{(p + q)} - b \frac{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2} \sqrt{q^2 + m^2}}{m(p + q)} x \right], \quad (2.7)$$

$$C = 2 \frac{\sqrt{q}}{\sqrt{p + q}} \left[ \sqrt{q^2 + m^2}(\rho + p) - q \frac{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}}{m} b x \right], \quad (2.8)$$

$$D = B c_2^2 c_3^2 - F(c_2^2 s_3^2 + s_2^2 c_3^2) + \frac{F^2}{B} s_2^2 s_3^2 - \frac{C^2 F}{AB} s_2^2 s_3^2, \quad (2.9)$$

$$V_0 = -\frac{1}{A} \sqrt{\frac{q(q^2 + m^2)}{p(p^2 + m^2)}} \left[ F + 2p \left( \rho + p + \frac{qb}{m} \sqrt{\frac{p^2 + m^2}{q^2 + m^2}} x \right) \right], \quad (2.10)$$

$$\tilde{H}_{2,3} = A + (A - G) s_{2,3}^2, \quad (2.11)$$

$$G = \frac{AF - C^2}{B}, \quad (2.12)$$

where

$$s_{2,3} = \sinh \alpha_{2,3}, \quad c_{2,3} = \cosh \alpha_{2,3}. \quad (2.13)$$

The one-form  $\check{A}_{[1]}^0$  is

$$\check{A}_{[1]}^0 = \zeta_0(dt + \omega_3) + A_3^0, \quad (2.14)$$

$$\zeta_0 = c_2 c_3 s_2 s_3 \frac{CV_0}{D}, \quad A_3^0 = s_2 s_3 \kappa_0^1, \quad \omega_3 = c_2 c_3 \omega^0, \quad (2.15)$$

where the three-dimensional one-forms are

$$\kappa_0^1 = \frac{2b\sqrt{q}\sqrt{p+q}(1-x^2)}{m\sqrt{m^2+p^2}F} ((p-q+\rho)m^2 + pq\rho) d\phi, \quad (2.16)$$

$$\omega^0 = -\frac{2b\sqrt{p}\sqrt{q}(1-x^2)(m^2(p+q+\rho) - pq\rho)}{m(p+q)F} d\phi. \quad (2.17)$$

The five-dimensional vectors are

$$A_{[1]}^I = \chi^I(dz + \check{A}_{[1]}^0) + \check{A}_{[1]}^I, \quad (2.18)$$

with

$$\chi_1 = -\frac{As_2 s_3 V_0}{D + As_2^2 s_3^2 V_0^2}, \quad \chi_2 = -c_2 s_3 \frac{C}{\tilde{H}_3}, \quad \chi_3 = -c_3 s_2 \frac{C}{\tilde{H}_2}, \quad (2.19)$$

and the one-forms  $\check{A}_{[1]}^I$  are

$$\check{A}_{[1]}^I = \zeta_I(dt + \omega_3) + A_3^I, \quad (2.20)$$

with

$$\zeta_1 = c_2 c_3 \frac{C}{D}, \quad \zeta_2 = s_2 c_3 (B c_2^2 - F s_2^2) \frac{V_0}{D}, \quad \zeta_3 = s_3 c_2 (B c_3^2 - F s_3^2) \frac{V_0}{D}, \quad (2.21)$$

and

$$A_3^1 = \omega^1, \quad A_3^2 = -s_2 c_2 \kappa_0^0, \quad A_3^3 = -s_3 c_3 \kappa_0^0. \quad (2.22)$$

The remaining three-dimensional one-forms are

$$\omega^1 = \frac{2\sqrt{p}}{\sqrt{p+q}F} \left[ \sqrt{m^2 + p^2} \Delta x - \frac{b\sqrt{m^2 + q^2}}{m} (1-x^2)(p\rho - m^2) \right] d\phi, \quad (2.23)$$

$$\kappa_0^0 = -\frac{2}{F} q \left[ \Delta x + \sqrt{\frac{q^2 + m^2}{p^2 + m^2}} \frac{b}{m} (p\rho - m^2)(1-x^2) \right] d\phi. \quad (2.24)$$

Finally, the five-dimensional  $U(1)^3$  supergravity scalars are  $h^I = y^I/f$  with

$$y_1 = \frac{\sqrt{AD}}{D + A s_2^2 s_3^2 V_0^2}, \quad y_2 = \frac{\sqrt{AD}}{\tilde{H}_3}, \quad y_3 = \frac{\sqrt{AD}}{\tilde{H}_2}. \quad (2.25)$$

The uplift of this rather complicated solution to six dimensions directly matches the configuration in [31]. The above solution is asymptotically flat in four dimensions. Physical quantities in four dimensions such as mass, angular momentum, electric and magnetic charges are (with four-dimensional Newton's constant take to be unity)

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{1}{2} [p + q(1 + s_2^2 + s_3^2)], \quad (2.26)$$

$$\mathcal{J} = b \frac{\sqrt{pq}(pq - m^2)}{m(p+q)} c_2 c_3, \quad (2.27)$$

$$\mathcal{Q} = \sqrt{\frac{q(q^2 + m^2)}{p+q}} c_2 c_3, \quad (2.28)$$

$$\mathcal{P} = \sqrt{\frac{p(p^2 + m^2)}{p+q}}, \quad (2.29)$$

$$\mathcal{Q}_2 = q s_2 c_2, \quad (2.30)$$

$$\mathcal{Q}_3 = q s_3 c_3, \quad (2.31)$$

where we use the notation  $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q}_2, \mathcal{Q}_3$  to denote the 3 magnetic (M5) charges and  $\mathcal{Q}$  to denote the electric (M2) charge.

### 3 BPS limit

In order to make contact with the previous literature related to the above configuration, let us consider the uplift to six dimensions and take the limit  $m \rightarrow 0$  with various charges and angular

momentum held fixed. This BPS limit allows us to connect rather directly to the five-dimensional analysis in the following.

In coordinates

$$\tilde{r} = \rho - bx, \quad \tilde{x} = \frac{\rho x - b}{\rho - bx}, \quad (3.1)$$

the metric in the BPS limit in the Bena-Warner [27] form is<sup>2</sup>:

$$ds_{6\text{BPS}}^2 = (Z_2 Z_3)^{-1/2} [-(dt + k)^2 + (dz_5 + \omega_P - k)^2] + (Z_2 Z_3)^{1/2} ds_{\text{B}}^2, \quad (3.2)$$

$$ds_{\text{B}}^2 = V^{-1} (dz_6 + \vec{\chi})^2 + V \left( d\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{r}^2 \frac{d\tilde{x}^2}{1 - \tilde{x}^2} + \tilde{r}^2 (1 - \tilde{x}^2) d\phi^2 \right). \quad (3.3)$$

Here  $Z_2, Z_3$ , and  $V$  are harmonic functions on the three-dimensional flat base space spanned by  $\tilde{r}, \tilde{x}, \phi$  coordinates;  $k$  and  $\omega_P$  are one-forms on the four-dimensional Gibbons-Hawking base space spanned by  $z_6, \tilde{r}, \tilde{x}, \phi$ . From the IIB supergravity point of view, which is obtained by adding  $\text{T}^4$  to the six-dimensional uplift,  $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{Q}_2, \mathcal{Q}_3$  respectively denote the BPS limits of KK monopole ( $z_6$  as KK fibre), KK electric ( $z_6$  direction), D1 ( $z_5$  direction), and D5 ( $z_5$  and four-torus directions) charges.

The expressions for the 1-forms are

$$k = \left( H_K + \frac{H_P}{2V} \right) (dz_6 + \vec{\chi}) + \vec{k}, \quad \star_3 d\vec{k} = V dH_K - H_K dV - \frac{1}{2} dH_P, \quad (3.4)$$

$$\omega_P = \frac{H_P}{V} (dz_6 + \vec{\chi}) + \vec{\omega}_P, \quad \star_3 d\vec{\omega}_P = -dH_P, \quad (3.5)$$

and the harmonic functions are<sup>3</sup>

$$V = 1 + \frac{2\mathcal{P}}{\tilde{r}}, \quad Z_i = 1 + \frac{2\mathcal{Q}_i}{\Sigma}, \quad i = 2, 3, \quad (3.8)$$

$$H_K = -\frac{\mathcal{Q}}{2\mathcal{P}} \left( 1 + \frac{2\mathcal{P}}{\Sigma} \right), \quad H_P = \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\mathcal{P}} + \frac{2\mathcal{Q}_2 \mathcal{Q}_3}{\mathcal{Q}} \left( \frac{1}{\tilde{r}} - \frac{1}{\Sigma} \right), \quad (3.9)$$

with

$$\vec{\chi} = 2\mathcal{P} x d\phi, \quad \Sigma = \sqrt{\tilde{r}^2 + 4b^2 + 4b\tilde{r}\tilde{x}}. \quad (3.10)$$

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<sup>2</sup>We have fixed a typo in the 6d BPS metric compared to [31]. The term  $-(dt + k)^2$  in the metric is incorrectly typed in [31] as  $-(dt - k)^2$ .

<sup>3</sup>Upon KK reduction on  $z_5$ , the fields can be matched to a M2-M2-KKM system. In this frame, the Bena-Warner harmonic functions are

$$L_1 = 1, \quad L_2 = Z_2, \quad L_3 = Z_3, \quad (3.6)$$

$$K^1 = H_P, \quad K^2 = K^3 = 0, \quad M = H_K, \quad (3.7)$$

and the function  $V$  is same as in (3.8).



Integrations of (3.4) and (3.5) give

$$\vec{\omega}_P = \left[ -\frac{2\mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3}{\mathcal{Q}}x + \frac{2\mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3}{\mathcal{Q}}\frac{1}{r_c}(rx + 2b) \right] d\phi, \quad (3.11)$$

$$\vec{k} = \left[ -\frac{\mathcal{P}\mathcal{Q}^2 + b(\mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3 - \mathcal{Q}^2)x}{b\mathcal{Q}} + \frac{\mathcal{P}\mathcal{Q}^2(r + 2bx) - b(\mathcal{Q}^2 - \mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3)(2b + rx)}{b\mathcal{Q}r_c} \right] d\phi, \quad (3.12)$$

and integrations of  $\star_3 d\vec{Z}_i = dZ_i$  give

$$\vec{Z}_i = \frac{2\mathcal{Q}_i}{r_c}(rx + 2b)d\phi. \quad (3.13)$$

A detailed regularity analysis of the above BPS solution is presented in [44], and is concisely summarized in [31]. We do not reproduce this analysis here.

### 3.1 Five dimensions

We reduce the above BPS solution to five-dimensions by performing KK reduction over  $z_6$ . This new five-dimensional solution can also be written in the Bena-Warner [27] form. It simply corresponds to the BPS limit of configuration of section 2. We introduce a new set of coordinates

$$t = -v \quad z_5 = -u + v. \quad (3.14)$$

In these coordinates the metric is

$$ds_5^2 = -f^2(dv + k)^2 + f^{-1} \left[ H_P^{-1} (du - \vec{\omega}_P)^2 + H_P \left( d\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{r}^2 \frac{d\tilde{x}^2}{1 - \tilde{x}^2} + \tilde{r}^2 (1 - \tilde{x}^2) d\phi^2 \right) \right], \quad (3.15)$$

with  $\star_3 d\vec{\omega}_P = -dH_P$ . The one-form  $k$  is

$$k = \left[ \frac{V(Z_2 Z_3 - H_K H_P)}{H_P^2} - \frac{1}{2} \right] (du - \vec{\omega}_P) - \vec{k} d\phi, \quad (3.16)$$

and

$$f = \left[ \frac{H_P^3}{V^2 Z_2 Z_3 (Z_2 Z_3 - 2H_K H_P)} \right]^{\frac{1}{3}}. \quad (3.17)$$

The above metric can be realized in the Bena-Warner notation in an M5-M5-M5 frame with an M2 charge as

$$K_{\text{BW}}^1 = V \quad K_{\text{BW}}^2 = Z_2 \quad K_{\text{BW}}^3 = Z_3 \quad V_{\text{BW}} = H_P \quad (3.18)$$

$$L_{1,\text{BW}} = -2H_K \quad L_{2,\text{BW}} = 0 \quad L_{3,\text{BW}} = 0 \quad M_{\text{BW}} = -\frac{1}{2}. \quad (3.19)$$

We use the subscript “BW” to avoid confusion with the various other frames used above.

The five-dimensional vectors in this Bena-Warner presentation are

$$A^I = -\frac{dt + k}{Z_{I,\text{BW}}} + \frac{K_{\text{BW}}^I}{V_{\text{BW}}}(du - \omega_P) + \xi^{(I)} \quad (3.20)$$

where  $\star_3 d\vec{\xi}^{(I)} = -dK^I_{\text{BW}}$ , which can be integrated to

$$\xi^{(1)} = -2\mathcal{P}x d\phi, \quad \xi^{(2)} = -\vec{Z}_2, \quad \xi^{(3)} = -\vec{Z}_3, \quad (3.21)$$

and where

$$Z_{I,\text{BW}} = \frac{1}{2}|\epsilon_{IJK}|\frac{K_{\text{BW}}^J K_{\text{BW}}^K}{V_{\text{BW}}} + L_{I,\text{BW}}. \quad (3.22)$$

The scalars are simply

$$h^I = \frac{(Z_{1,\text{BW}} Z_{2,\text{BW}} Z_{3,\text{BW}})^{\frac{1}{3}}}{Z_{I,\text{BW}}}. \quad (3.23)$$

Note in particular that  $V_{\text{BW}} = H_P$  and hence the Gibbons-Hawking base for the five-dimensional BPS solution has two centers, see equation (3.9).

**Regularity analysis:** A regularity analysis proceeds along the same lines as for the 6d metric as in [44] and [31].

- For the smoothness of the 5d metric we must ensure that  $k$  is a smooth 1-form on the base space: it must vanish at  $\tilde{r} = 0$  and  $\Sigma = 0$  where the harmonic function  $V_{\text{BW}}$  diverges. Requiring this (more precisely  $k_u = 0$ ) fixes the distance between the two-centers to be

$$b = \frac{2\mathcal{P}Q^2}{Q_2 Q_3 - Q^2}. \quad (3.24)$$

- The requirement that the  $u$ -circle smoothly shrinks to zero size at  $\tilde{r} = 0$  and at  $\Sigma = 0$  fixes the identification  $u \sim u + 2\pi\Delta u$  and hence also the radius  $R_u$  of the  $u$ -circle at infinity

$$\Delta u = \frac{4Q_2 Q_3}{Q}, \quad R_u = \frac{4Q_2 Q_3 \mathcal{P}^{\frac{2}{3}}}{Q(\mathcal{P}^2 + Q^2)^{\frac{1}{3}}}. \quad (3.25)$$

This concludes the BPS limit of the five-dimensional solution.

### 3.2 M5-M5-M5 limit

Now let us consider taking the limit where the two centres become coincident, while keeping the 3 M5 charges fixed. In this limit we see from (3.24) that the M2 charge disappears. Thus, we expect to recover a (singular) MSW black string with only M5 charges. We now examine how this limit is achieved.

We start by noting that the Bena-Warner class of solutions have the following symmetry:

$$t' = \lambda t, \quad \psi' = \psi/\lambda, \quad V' = V/\lambda, \quad (3.26)$$

$$L'_I = \lambda L_I, \quad K'^I = K^I, \quad M' = \lambda^2 M. \quad (3.27)$$

Under these rescalings the one-form  $k$ ,  $\vec{\chi}$ , etc. scale appropriately so that the full metric remains invariant.

We rescale the Bena-Warner smooth solution with  $\lambda = \frac{Q}{\mathcal{P}}$  and then take the limit  $Q \rightarrow 0$ . The full five-dimensional metric in the rescaled coordinates becomes

$$ds^2 = -(K^1 K^2 K^3)^{-4/3} (dt' + k)^2 + (K^1 K^2 K^3)^{2/3} ds_{\text{base}}^2 \quad (3.28)$$

$$k = (K^1 K^2 K^3) d\psi', \quad (3.29)$$

where the base space metric takes the form

$$ds_{\text{base}}^2 = d\psi'^2 + (ds_3^2)_{\text{flat}}, \quad (3.30)$$

Writing in terms of the original coordinates we get

$$ds^2 = -2(K^1 K^2 K^3)^{-1/3} dt d\psi + (K^1 K^2 K^3)^{2/3} (ds_3^2)_{\text{flat}}, \quad (3.31)$$

which is precisely the metric of the M5-M5-M5 black string in the double null coordinates.

The reader may wonder how a limit of a smooth solution gives rise to a (singular) black string. The answer lies in the fact that the limiting black string is of zero-entropy. This is precisely the “reverse process” of what Bena and Warner [20, 27] have called “geometric transition.” In their set-up a zero entropy black string goes into a 2-center smooth solution via nucleation of Gibbons-Hawking centres. In our set-up when we take the limit of centres to be coincident we recover the singular black string metric.

## 4 Smooth solutions and regularity analysis

Now we want to explore whether there are any smooth solutions in the family of five-dimensional metrics we have constructed. We follow the same reasoning as [31]. By inspection we can see that the metric has potential singularities at  $\tilde{H}_2 = 0, \tilde{H}_3 = 0, A = 0, D = 0, \Delta = 0, F = 0, B = 0, (D + As_2^2 s_3^2 V_0^2) = 0$ , and  $x = \pm 1$ . We will focus on the singularity at  $\Delta = 0$  and will try to interpret it as a smooth origin. The singularities at  $x = \pm 1$  are like the usual coordinate singularities arising from the degeneration of azimuthal coordinate at the poles of the two-sphere. The analysis of the  $x = \pm 1$  singularities will require appropriate identifications, which will be discussed later. We expect other singularities to be true curvature singularities, so we will arrange parameters in the smooth solutions such that  $\tilde{H}_2, \tilde{H}_3, A, D, F, B > 0$  everywhere. Moreover we require the identifications of  $u$  and  $\phi$  to lie in a surface of constant  $v$  (see equation (3.14)).

It turns out that in performing the analysis outlined in the previous paragraph, there are no changes compared to what is already done in [31]. We will see that our analysis starts to differ

from the next subsection. For brevity we do not write all equations again, and present only the most relevant details. Interpreting  $\Delta = 0$  at  $\rho = \rho_0$  as a smooth origin, where a spatial direction goes to zero size, we need

$$\rho_0 = \sqrt{b^2 - m^2} = \frac{m^2(p+q)}{pq - m^2}, \quad (4.1)$$

which implies

$$b^2 = \frac{m^2 (m^2 + p^2) (m^2 + q^2)}{(pq - m^2)^2}. \quad (4.2)$$

We will always work with the positive square-root for (4.2). It can be checked that no other singularities are encountered in the region  $\rho > \rho_0, -1 \leq x \leq 1$  as  $\tilde{H}_2, \tilde{H}_3, A, D, F, B$  are all strictly positive<sup>4</sup>.

Therefore, we conclude that when constraint (4.2) is satisfied, the only singularities in the metric are at (i)  $\rho = \rho_0$ , (ii)  $x = +1$ , and (iii)  $x = -1$ . Each of these singularities is a degeneration of a spatial cycle in the  $(u, \phi)$  part of the metric. We now turn to an analysis of these singularities.

#### 4.1 Global identifications

We want to find the global identifications in  $(u, \phi)$  space that yield a smooth metric. We investigate the three singularities one by one. We write the general Killing vector in the  $(u, \phi)$  space as

$$\xi = \partial_\phi - \alpha \partial_u, \quad (4.3)$$

where the choice

$$\alpha = -s_2 s_3 \kappa_{0,\phi}^1, \quad (4.4)$$

ensures the vanishing of the norm  $\xi \cdot \xi$  of the Killing vector at the following one-cycle degeneracies:

**Degeneracy I** ( $x = +1$ ): For  $x = +1$ ,  $F = \Delta$ ,  $\omega^0 = 0$  and  $\kappa_{0,\phi}^1 = 0$ . Hence  $\alpha = 0$ . We note that locally the relevant part of the metric looks like (up to an over-all constant)

$$\frac{dx^2}{1-x^2} + (1-x^2)d\phi^2, \quad (4.5)$$

that says that  $\phi$  has to have a period of  $2\pi$ . Hence the identification required for obtaining a smooth origin is at  $x = +1$

$$(u, \phi) \sim (u, \phi + 2\pi). \quad (4.6)$$

**Degeneracy II** ( $x = -1$ ): For  $x = -1$  the discussion is identical to the  $x = +1$  case. Again,  $F = \Delta$ ,  $\omega^0 = 0$  and  $\kappa_{0,\phi}^1 = 0$  and hence  $\alpha = 0$ . The metric is locally flat yielding the identification of  $\phi$  to be (4.6).

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<sup>4</sup>Showing that  $D$  is positive is quite non-trivial. In [31] it is shown that  $D > 0$  by an indirect argument by first showing that the geometry has no closed timelike curves. See also section 4.2.2 below.

**Degeneracy III** ( $\rho = \rho_0$ ): At  $\rho = \rho_0$ ,  $F = b^2(1 - x^2)$ ,  $\omega^0 = 0$  and  $\kappa_{0,\phi}^1 = \frac{4q\sqrt{q}\sqrt{p+q}}{\sqrt{q^2+m^2}}$ . Hence,  $\alpha = -4s_2s_3\frac{q\sqrt{q}\sqrt{p+q}}{\sqrt{q^2+m^2}}$ . Therefore, the relevant circle is along  $\phi$  at fixed  $u - 4s_2s_3\frac{q\sqrt{q}\sqrt{p+q}}{\sqrt{q^2+m^2}}\phi$ . The leading contribution (of order  $(\rho - \rho_0)$ ) to the non-zero size of the circle away from  $\rho = \rho_0$  comes only from the term  $\frac{\Delta}{F}(1 - x^2)d\phi^2$  in the metric. Defining a new coordinate  $Z$  as  $\rho = \rho_0(1 + 2Z^2)$ , the relevant part of the metric becomes

$$\frac{4}{\rho_0}(\tilde{H}_2\tilde{H}_3(D + As_2^2s_3^2V_0^2))^{\frac{1}{3}}\left(dZ^2 + Z^2\frac{\rho_0^2}{b^2}d\phi^2\right). \quad (4.7)$$

From this we note that  $\phi$  must be periodic with periodicity  $2\pi n$  where  $n = \frac{b}{\rho_0}$ . Hence, the identification in this case is:

$$(u, \phi) \sim (u + 8\pi ns_2s_3q\frac{\sqrt{q}\sqrt{p+q}}{\sqrt{q^2+m^2}}, \phi + 2n\pi). \quad (4.8)$$

Upon KK reduction over  $u$  we expect to obtain a four-dimensional asymptotically flat geometry, so  $\phi$  must have periodicity  $2\pi$ . Hence given the identification (4.8) we obtain another constraint on the parameters (in addition to (4.2)) that

$$n = \frac{b}{\rho_0} \quad (4.9)$$

must be an integer. Thus, our smooth solutions are characterized by five parameters, which we can take to be the three magnetic charges, one electric charge and the integer  $n$ . This counting works as follows: in our supergravity configurations we have six parameters  $(p, q, m, b, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)$  and we have one constraint (4.2) and one relation (4.9).

## 4.2 Regularity analysis

In this section we present a detailed regularity analysis of the smooth solutions found in the previous section.

### 4.2.1 Corners

From the analysis presented in section 4.1, it follows that the discrete family of solutions is smooth at  $\rho = \rho_0$  or at  $x = \pm 1$ .<sup>5</sup> However, from that analysis it is not clear what happens at the ‘corners’ [31], where  $\rho = \rho_0$  and  $x = \pm 1$ . In this section we introduce explicit coordinates and show that the eleven-dimensional geometry is smooth near these points as well.

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<sup>5</sup>Recall that throughout this paper we are using the coordinate  $x$  in place of the azimuthal coordinate  $\theta$  on the two-sphere. The two are simply related by  $x = \cos \theta$ .

**Corner 1:** Let us consider the first corner  $\rho = \rho_0$ ,  $x = +1$ . We start by defining new coordinates

$$\tilde{r} = (\rho - \rho_0) + \rho_0(1 - x), \quad (4.10)$$

$$\tilde{x} = (1 + x) \left[ \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{\tilde{r}} \right] - 1, \quad (4.11)$$

with the property that  $\rho = \rho_0$ ,  $x = +1$  is at  $\tilde{r} = 0$ , with  $\rho = \rho_0$ ,  $x \neq 1$  along  $\tilde{x} = -1$ , and  $\rho \neq \rho_0$ ,  $x = +1$  along  $\tilde{x} = +1$ . The inverse relation for these coordinates is

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt{\tilde{r}^2 + 4\tilde{r}\tilde{x}\rho_0 + 4\rho_0^2} + \tilde{r} \right), \quad (4.12)$$

$$x = \frac{1}{2\rho_0} \left( \sqrt{\tilde{r}^2 + 4\tilde{r}\tilde{x}\rho_0 + 4\rho_0^2} - \tilde{r} \right), \quad (4.13)$$

which is of direct use for the computations below. Near  $\tilde{r} = 0$ , the factor  $\frac{fe^{2U}}{F}$  goes as a constant. For this reason we consider the following scaled metric

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{fe^{2U}}{F} ds_5^2 &= \frac{f^3 e^{2U}}{F} \left( -du + dv + s_2 s_3 \kappa_0^1 d\phi + c_2 c_3 s_2 s_3 \frac{CV_0}{D} (-dv + c_2 c_3 \omega^0 d\phi) \right)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{dx^2}{1-x^2} + \frac{d\rho^2}{\Delta} + (1-x^2) \frac{\Delta}{F} d\phi^2 - \frac{e^{4U}}{F} (-dv + c_2 c_3 \omega^0 d\phi)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

In the limit  $\tilde{r} \rightarrow 0$  various pieces in the last two terms of the above metric have the following limiting behavior

$$\frac{e^{4U}}{F} \approx \text{constant} \quad (4.15)$$

$$\omega_0 \approx \mathcal{O}(\tilde{r}) \quad (4.16)$$

$$(1-x^2) \frac{\Delta}{F} = \frac{(1-\tilde{x}^2)\tilde{r}}{(1+\tilde{x}+n^2(1-\tilde{x}))\rho_0} + \mathcal{O}(\tilde{r}^2). \quad (4.17)$$

From these expressions we see that (i) the size of the  $v$  direction remains finite as we zoom near the first corner, (ii) all contributions from the  $\omega_0$  terms can be ignored, as they are subleading.

Now let us examine the first line of the scaled metric (4.14). After some computation we note that

$$\frac{f^3 e^{2U}}{F} = \frac{(1+\tilde{x}+n^2(1-\tilde{x}))(p+\rho_0-n^2\rho_0)^2}{16(n^2-1)^2 s_2^2 s_3^2 \rho_0^2 (p+\rho_0)^3} \tilde{r} + \mathcal{O}(\tilde{r}^2) \quad (4.18)$$

$$\frac{CV_0}{D} \approx \mathcal{O}(1). \quad (4.19)$$

Thus we see that from the first line of the scaled metric (4.14) only the following piece is relevant near the corner

$$\frac{f^3 e^{2U}}{F} (-du + s_2 s_3 \kappa_0^1 d\phi)^2. \quad (4.20)$$

The limiting value of  $\kappa_0^1$  near the corner is

$$\kappa_0^1 = \frac{4n(n^2-1)(1-\tilde{x})(p+\rho_0)\sqrt{\rho_0(p+\rho_0)}}{(1+\tilde{x}+n^2(1-\tilde{x}))(p+\rho_0-n^2\rho_0)} + \mathcal{O}(\tilde{r}), \quad (4.21)$$

Now a straightforward (if somewhat tedious) computation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{f^3 e^{2U}}{F} (-du + s_2 s_3 \kappa_0^1 d\phi)^2 + \frac{dx^2}{1-x^2} + \frac{d\rho^2}{\Delta} + (1-x^2) \frac{\Delta}{F} d\phi^2 \approx \\ & \frac{1}{2\rho_0 \tilde{r}} \left[ d\tilde{r}^2 + \tilde{r}^2 \frac{d\tilde{x}^2}{1-\tilde{x}^2} + \frac{\tilde{r}^2}{2n^2} (1+\tilde{x}) \left( d\phi + \frac{d\hat{u}}{2\mathcal{P}} \right)^2 + \frac{\tilde{r}^2}{2} (1-\tilde{x}) \left( d\phi - \frac{d\hat{u}}{2\mathcal{P}} \right)^2 \right], \end{aligned} \quad (4.22)$$

where the new coordinate  $\hat{u}$  is

$$\hat{u} = \frac{1}{d_1} u + \frac{d_2}{d_1} \phi, \quad (4.23)$$

with the constants  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  given as

$$d_1 = p s_2 s_3 \frac{(n^2 - 1)(p + \rho_0) \sqrt{\rho_0(p + \rho_0)}}{n(p(p + \rho_0 - n^2 \rho_0))^{3/2}}, \quad (4.24)$$

$$d_2 = -2p s_2 s_3 \frac{(n^2 - 1)(p + \rho_0) \sqrt{\rho_0(p + \rho_0)}}{n(p(p + \rho_0 - n^2 \rho_0))}. \quad (4.25)$$

The identification (4.8) becomes

$$(\hat{u}, \phi) \sim (4\pi n \mathcal{P}, 2\pi n). \quad (4.26)$$

Now, if we define  $\tilde{r} = R^2$ ,  $\tilde{x} = 2\hat{x}^2 - 1$ , and

$$\psi_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left( \phi - \frac{\hat{u}}{2\mathcal{P}} \right), \quad \psi_2 = \frac{1}{2n} \left( \phi + \frac{\hat{u}}{2\mathcal{P}} \right), \quad (4.27)$$

the metric (4.22) becomes the standard metric on  $\mathbb{R}^4$ , while the identifications (4.6) and (4.26) become respectively  $\psi_1 \sim \psi_1 + 2\pi$ ,  $\psi_2 \sim \psi_2 + 2\pi$ . Thus the local geometry near the first corner is globally  $\mathbb{R}^4$ , and hence smooth. The five-dimensional scalars of the  $U(1)^3$  supergravity have finite non-zero limiting values, hence the eleven dimensional geometry is also smooth near the corner.

**Corner 2:** Now let us consider the second corner  $\rho = \rho_0$ ,  $x = -1$ . Again we start by defining new coordinates

$$\tilde{r} = (\rho - \rho_0) + \rho_0(1 + x), \quad (4.28)$$

$$\tilde{x} = (1 - x) \left[ \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{\tilde{r}} \right] - 1. \quad (4.29)$$

In these coordinates  $\rho = \rho_0$ ,  $x = -1$  is at  $\tilde{r} = 0$ , with  $\rho = \rho_0$ ,  $x \neq -1$  along  $\tilde{x} = -1$ , and  $\rho \neq \rho_0$ ,  $x = -1$  along  $\tilde{x} = +1$ . The inverse relation for these coordinates is

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2} \left( \sqrt{\tilde{r}^2 + 4\tilde{r}\tilde{x}\rho_0 + 4\rho_0^2} + \tilde{r} \right), \quad (4.30)$$

$$x = -\frac{1}{2\rho_0} \left( \sqrt{\tilde{r}^2 + 4\tilde{r}\tilde{x}\rho_0 + 4\rho_0^2} - \tilde{r} \right), \quad (4.31)$$

which we can use below. Near  $\tilde{r} = 0$ , the factor  $\frac{fe^{2U}}{F}$  again goes as a constant. For this reason we again consider the scaled metric (4.14). In the limit  $\tilde{r} \rightarrow 0$  various pieces in the last two terms of the scaled metric have the following limiting behavior

$$\frac{e^{4U}}{F} \approx \text{constant} \quad (4.32)$$

$$\omega_0 \approx \mathcal{O}(\tilde{r}) \quad (4.33)$$

$$(1-x^2)\frac{\Delta}{F} = \frac{(1-\tilde{x}^2)\tilde{r}}{(1+\tilde{x}+n^2(1-\tilde{x}))\rho_0} + \mathcal{O}(\tilde{r}^2). \quad (4.34)$$

From these expressions we see that (i) the size of the  $v$  direction remains finite as we zoom near the first corner, (ii) all contributions from the  $\omega_0$  terms can be ignored, as they give subleading contributions.

The rest of the analysis proceeds exactly the same way as for the first corner. We conclude that the local geometry near the second corner is globally  $\mathbb{R}^4$ , and hence smooth. The five-dimensional scalars of the  $U(1)^3$  supergravity also have finite non-zero limiting values, hence the eleven dimensional geometry is also smooth near the second corner.

#### 4.2.2 Closed timelike curves

In the  $(u, v)$  coordinates introduced in equation (3.14) we verify the absence of closed timelike curves for the five-dimensional metric. We do this by showing that  $v$  is a global time function, which requires  $g^{vv} < 0$  everywhere. The  $vv$  component of the five-dimensional inverse metric is

$$g^{vv} = -\frac{f}{e^{2U}} + \frac{fe^{2U}}{\Delta(1-x^2)}c_2^2c_3^2(\omega_\phi^0)^2. \quad (4.35)$$

To show that this quantity is negative, we rewrite it as (after substituting the values for  $e^{2U}$  and  $f$ )

$$g^{vv} = \frac{1}{(\tilde{H}_2\tilde{H}_3(D + As_2^2s_3^2V_0^2))^{1/3}} \left[ -\frac{AD}{F} + \frac{F}{\Delta(1-x^2)}c_2^2c_3^2(\omega_\phi^0)^2 \right]. \quad (4.36)$$

From the analysis of section 5.3 of [31] it follows that the quantity in the square brackets is negative. Since that analysis applies as it is to our case, we do not present any details on this, and refer the reader to that reference. We note two minor typos in section 5.3 of [31]

1. A factor of 4 missing in their equation (5.47): term involving  $J^2$  should read,  $-4BJ^2(\rho - \rho_0)^2 \sin^2 \theta$ .
2. In equation (5.65) tilde on  $c_2$  should not be there; the left-hand side should be  $c_2(-1)$ .

Now it remains to show that the overall prefactor in equation (4.36) is positive. From previous sections we already know that  $\tilde{H}_2$ ,  $\tilde{H}_3$ ,  $F$ ,  $\Delta$ , and  $A$  are all positive for  $\rho > \rho_0$ . Since the quantity in the square parenthesis in equation (4.36) is negative, it follows that  $D > 0$ . Hence it follows that the prefactor in equation (4.36) is positive.



### 4.2.3 Vectors and scalars

The scalars  $h^I$  are regular and positive everywhere, including at the ‘corners’ where  $\rho = \rho_0$  and  $x = \pm 1$ .

The vectors of the solution have potential singularities where various cycles degenerate. To analyse this let us note that at the different degeneration points the various one-forms appearing in the solution are

$$x = +1 : \quad \omega_\phi^0 = 0, \quad \omega_\phi^1 = +2\mathcal{P}, \quad \kappa_{0,\phi}^0 = -2q, \quad \kappa_{0,\phi}^1 = 0, \quad (4.37)$$

$$x = -1 : \quad \omega_\phi^0 = 0, \quad \omega_\phi^1 = -2\mathcal{P}, \quad \kappa_{0,\phi}^0 = +2q, \quad \kappa_{0,\phi}^1 = 0, \quad (4.38)$$

$$\rho = \rho_0 : \quad \omega_\phi^0 = 0, \quad \omega_\phi^1 = -2\mathcal{P}, \quad \kappa_{0,\phi}^0 = -2q, \quad \kappa_{0,\phi}^1 = 4q \frac{\sqrt{q}\sqrt{p+q}}{\sqrt{q^2+m^2}}. \quad (4.39)$$

The gauge fields along the degenerating direction are regular only if the integrals around the degenerating cycles can be made zero by a (possibly) large gauge transformation. These integrations are

$$\oint_\phi (\xi \cdot A^I)|_{x=+1} = 2\pi(+2\mathcal{P}, +2s_2c_2q, +2s_3c_3q), \quad (4.40)$$

$$\oint_\phi (\xi \cdot A^I)|_{x=-1} = 2\pi(-2\mathcal{P}, -2s_2c_2q, -2s_3c_3q), \quad (4.41)$$

$$\oint_\phi (\xi \cdot A^I)|_{\rho=\rho_0} = 2\pi(-2\mathcal{P}, +2s_2c_2q, +2s_3c_3q). \quad (4.42)$$

These integrals simply denote non-trivial Wilson lines in the limits when the respective cycles degenerate. The non-zero values of these integrals can all be removed by appropriate *large* gauge transformations; they represent the usual behaviour of the gauge field at the location of a magnetic monopole. Moreover, the first of these equations (4.40) can be related to the second (4.41) by a large gauge transformation consistent with the Dirac quantization of magnetic charges on the two-sphere spanned by  $(x, \phi)$ .

In this sense all matter fields are regular (or can be made regular) by appropriate large gauge transformations.

## 5 Decoupling limit

We already know from [31] that the six-dimensional lift of the solution that we have constructed qualitatively looks like a smooth D1-D5 solution sitting at the tip of the Kaluza-Klein monopole. This explains why the decoupling limit in six-dimensions gives an  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3$  geometry, as shown in [31]. Upon dualities the ‘six-dimensional’ D1-D5-KKM system can be related to the ‘five-dimensional’ M5-M5-M5 system. Therefore, from the five-dimensional solution studied in this

paper, we expect a decoupling limit where we obtain an  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^2$  geometry. In this section we exhibit this.

As in the previous studies [30, 31] obtaining a decoupling limit requires us to scale some charges in a way such that we go close to extremality. More precisely, one is required to take the so-called dilute gas limit from the point of view of the dual CFT. This is achieved by taking  $\rho_0 \rightarrow 0$ , while keeping the three magnetic charges fixed. As we take this limit, we also change coordinates so as to zoom in on the core region by setting

$$\rho = \rho_0 r, \quad (5.1)$$

$$u = \frac{2\chi}{d\sqrt{\rho_0}}, \quad (5.2)$$

$$v = \frac{\tau}{d\sqrt{\rho_0}}, \quad (5.3)$$

and keeping  $r, \chi$ , and  $\tau$  fixed. In equations (5.2) and (5.3)  $d$  is a constant

$$d = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\mathcal{P}\mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3}}. \quad (5.4)$$

In this limit the metric becomes an  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^2$  geometry. This can be made explicit by introducing further new coordinates

$$r = 1 + 2R^2, \quad (5.5)$$

$$x = \cos \theta, \quad (5.6)$$

$$\tilde{\tau} = \frac{\tau}{2}, \quad (5.7)$$

$$\varphi = \chi - \frac{\tau}{2}, \quad (5.8)$$

in terms of which the near core metric becomes

$$ds^2 = \ell_{\text{AdS}}^2 \left( -(1 + R^2)d\tilde{\tau}^2 + \frac{dR^2}{1 + R^2} + R^2 d\varphi^2 \right) + \ell_{\text{S}^2}^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta (d\phi + n(d\tilde{\tau} - d\varphi))^2). \quad (5.9)$$

where

$$\ell_{\text{AdS}} = 4(\mathcal{P}\mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3)^{1/3}, \quad \ell_{\text{S}^2} = 2(\mathcal{P}\mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3)^{1/3}. \quad (5.10)$$

The scalars are constant in this limit. They take their ‘attractor values’

$$h^1 = \frac{\mathcal{P}}{(\mathcal{P}\mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3)^{1/3}}, \quad h^2 = \frac{\mathcal{Q}_2}{(\mathcal{P}\mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3)^{1/3}}, \quad h^3 = \frac{\mathcal{Q}_3}{(\mathcal{P}\mathcal{Q}_2\mathcal{Q}_3)^{1/3}}, \quad (5.11)$$

and the vectors in the decoupling limit are

$$A_{\text{decoupling}}^1 = -2n\mathcal{P}d\chi + 2\mathcal{P}x(d\phi + nd\tilde{\tau} - nd\varphi), \quad (5.12)$$

$$A_{\text{decoupling}}^2 = +2n\mathcal{Q}_2d\chi + 2\mathcal{Q}_2x(d\phi + nd\tilde{\tau} - nd\varphi), \quad (5.13)$$

$$A_{\text{decoupling}}^3 = +2n\mathcal{Q}_3d\chi + 2\mathcal{Q}_3x(d\phi + nd\tilde{\tau} - nd\varphi). \quad (5.14)$$

The identifications (4.6) and (4.8) respectively become

$$(\varphi, \phi) \sim (\varphi, \phi + 2\pi), \quad (5.15)$$

$$(\varphi, \phi) \sim (\varphi + 2\pi, \phi + 2n\pi). \quad (5.16)$$

Hence geometry of the decoupled solution is global  $\text{AdS}_3$ .

The above expressions fit into the (generic) asymptotic behaviour of fields analysed in [40]. Our decoupled geometry is obtained by taking a decoupling limit of a non-BPS solution. For this reason the CFT analysis of [40], which is done for BPS states, cannot be taken over directly. Instead we should view our states as excitations above those studied in [40]. From the above  $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^2$  geometry we can read off the CFT quantum numbers of the dual state. In the following we present such an analysis.

Let us start by recalling the integer quantization of M2 and M5 charges. If we normalize the charges in the five-dimensional KK setting (asymptotically  $\mathbb{R}^{3,1} \times S^1$ ) as

$$P^I = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{S^2} F^I, \quad Q_I = \frac{1}{16\pi G_5} \int_{S^2 \times S^1} (h^I)^{-2} \star_5 F^I, \quad (5.17)$$

where the integrals are calculated at spatial infinity, then the integer quantizations are [45]

$$n^I = \left( \frac{\pi}{4G_5} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} P^I, \quad N_I = \left( \frac{4G_5}{\pi} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} Q_I. \quad (5.18)$$

Note that the central charge is

$$c = \frac{3\ell_{\text{AdS}}}{2G_3} = 6n^1 n^2 n^3 = D_{IJK} n^I n^J n^K, \quad (5.19)$$

where  $D_{IJK} = |\epsilon_{IJK}|$ . Furthermore we find

$$N_1 = n n^2 n^3, \quad N_2 = 0, \quad N_3 = 0. \quad (5.20)$$

We can now use the results from [40] to compute contributions to the left and right sector conformal weights from the gravitational sector, the  $U(1)$  charges, and the  $SU(2)$  sector. Recall that the  $SU(2)$  sector arises upon dimensional reduction to  $\text{AdS}_3$ , and corresponds to angular momentum in four dimensions.

The gravitational contributions comes just from the Casimir energy of the cylinder dual to global  $\text{AdS}_3$

$$L_0^{\text{grav}} = \bar{L}_0^{\text{grav}} = -\frac{n^1 n^2 n^3}{4}. \quad (5.21)$$

The  $SU(2)$  charge contributes only to the left sector and is given in terms of the  $SU(2)$  current

$$L_0^{\text{SU}(2)} = \frac{J^2}{4n^1 n^2 n^3}. \quad (5.22)$$

The U(1) currents are proportional to the M2 charges. We have

$$J_I = N_I. \quad (5.23)$$

They contribute to the energy in both the left and the right sector. To write this succinctly it is convenient to define

$$(D^+)^{IJ} = \frac{n^I n^J}{12n^1 n^2 n^3}, \quad (D^-)^{IJ} = D^{IJ} - (D^+)^{IJ}. \quad (5.24)$$

where  $D^{IJ} = (D_{IJK} n^K)^{-1}$ . Then the contributions to the conformal weights are

$$L_0^{\text{U}(1)} = (D^+)^{IJ} J_I J_J, \quad (5.25)$$

$$\bar{L}_0^{\text{U}(1)} = -(D^-)^{IJ} J_I J_J. \quad (5.26)$$

The total weights are simply the sum of these three contributions<sup>6</sup>

$$L_0 = -\frac{n^1 n^2 n^3}{4} + (D^+)^{IJ} J_I J_J + \frac{J^2}{4n^1 n^2 n^3}, \quad (5.27)$$

$$= -\frac{n^1 n^2 n^3}{4} + \frac{(n)^2 n^1 n^2 n^3}{3}, \quad (5.28)$$

$$\bar{L}_0 = -\frac{n^1 n^2 n^3}{4} - (D^-)^{IJ} J_I J_J, \quad (5.29)$$

$$= -\frac{n^1 n^2 n^3}{4} + \frac{(n)^2 n^1 n^2 n^3}{3}. \quad (5.30)$$

The symmetry algebra underlying the MSW CFT admits an SU(2) spectral flow

$$J \rightarrow J + \eta, \quad L_0 \rightarrow L_0 + \frac{1}{2n^1 n^2 n^3} \eta J + \frac{1}{4n^1 n^2 n^3} \eta^2, \quad (5.31)$$

and three U(1) spectral flows [46, 40]

$$J_I \rightarrow J_I + \eta_I, \quad L_0 \rightarrow L_0 + 2(D^+)^{IJ} \eta_I J_J + (D^+)^{IJ} \eta_I \eta_J, \quad (5.32)$$

$$\bar{L}_0 \rightarrow \bar{L}_0 - 2(D^-)^{IJ} \eta_I J_J - (D^-)^{IJ} \eta_I \eta_J. \quad (5.33)$$

For our solution the only non-trivial currents are

$$J_1 = n n^2 n^3, \quad J = n n^1 n^2 n^3. \quad (5.34)$$

Therefore, our decoupled solution is related to global  $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^2$  by spectral flows through parameters

$$\eta_1 = n n^2 n^3, \quad \eta = n n^1 n^2 n^3. \quad (5.35)$$

From this we also conclude that for our decoupled solution the spectral flow invariant weights receive contributions only from the gravitational sector.

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<sup>6</sup>There is a curious feature that  $L_0 + \bar{L}_0 = \frac{1}{6} n^2 n^1 n^2 n^3 + \Delta M$ , where  $\Delta M$  is the ADM energy obtained by subtracting the contribution from the M5 branes:  $\Delta M = M_{\text{ADM}} - M_{\text{M5}}$ . This is unlike the solutions in [30] where the CFT energy is equal to the corresponding  $\Delta M$ .

## 6 Discussion

In this paper we have constructed a discrete family of non-supersymmetric microstates of the MSW system. It is quite non-trivial that we are able to find such smooth microstates. Our microstates are smooth in five-dimensions and have  $\text{AdS}_3$  cores. This is different from all previously known non-supersymmetric microstates, which are smooth only in six dimensions.

There are several papers that study smooth solutions for the  $(4,0)$  D1-D5-KK system. Since this system is closely related to the MSW system, in table 1 we attempt to give an overview of this literature. We only focus on solutions that have near core  $\text{AdS}_3$  regions, and classify them by the amount of spectral flows the near core region exhibits. Given the relation of this system to the MSW system via string dualities, we expect a general such solution to have four integer parameters in the STU model: one for the left  $\text{SU}(2)$  spectral flow and *three* for the  $\text{U}(1)$  spectral flows. It is a challenging exercise to explicitly construct this configuration<sup>7</sup>.

Study	$\text{SU}(2)$ spectral flow	$\text{U}(1)$ spectral flow
Bena and Kraus [44]	1	1
Saxena, Potvin, Giusto, and Peet [48]	1	$n$
Giusto, Ross, and Saxena [31]	$n$	$n$
Ross and Al-Alawi [32]	$n$	$m, m \neq n$

Table 1: An overview of the literature studying microstates of the  $(4,0)$  D1-D5-KK system.

There are several ways in which our study can be extended. The first and perhaps the most interesting such extension would be to obtain a more detailed microscopic understanding of the above discussed microstates, in particular to understand why  $\Delta M$  and  $L_0 + \bar{L}_0$  do not match, cf footnote 6. It will also be useful to understand which subclass of our geometries admit the appropriate spin structure so that they can truly be thought of as excited states in the Ramond sector of the CFT. We expect a non-trivial answer to this question because naively we expect that only for odd values of the integer  $n$  the dual CFT would be in the Ramond sector. Our bosonic supergravity analysis does not capture this physics.

One of the most interesting properties of the JMaRT solution [30] is that it has an ergoregion. Horizonless geometries with an ergoregion are expected to be generically unstable [49]. Therefore it is clearly of interest to study the presence of ergoregions for our solution. For the six-dimensional version of the solution such a study is complicated [31]. For the five-dimensional solution studied

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<sup>7</sup>In the MSW CFT the  $\text{SU}(2)$  spectral flow acts on the left sector but the  $\text{U}(1)$  spectral flows act on both the left and the right sectors [47, 40].

in this paper it is more manageable. However, using intuition from the results for the JMaRT solution [43], we expect spontaneous emission of M2 branes to be the most relevant for our set-up. To study spontaneous emission of M2 branes one effectively needs to study the ergoregion in six dimensions, which remains an important open problem.

A different five-dimensional as well as other dimensionally reduced versions of the JMaRT solution were studied in [50]. It was found that the five-dimensional version of the solution is smooth except at two points where there are non-supersymmetric orbifold singularities. Their study is similar to ours with one notable difference that in their study, dimensional reduction from 6d to 5d is done over  $z_5$  as opposed to  $z_6$ .<sup>8</sup> Extrapolating the results of [50] to the six-dimensional GRS configuration, we do not expect to obtain a smooth solution upon dimensional reduction over  $z_5$ . We expect the presence of non-supersymmetric orbifold singularities in the spacetime. On the other hand, in this paper we have shown that upon dimensional reduction over  $z_6$  we do obtain a smooth solution. If we do further dimensional reductions, say to four or to three dimensions, we anticipate that the details of the resulting geometries will be similar to the ones studied in [50].

Finally, it is clearly of interest to construct more general smooth solutions. The simplest such extensions are to add more M2 charges to the configuration considered in this paper. Using the  $SO(4,4)$  approach used in this paper this line of investigation is clearly within reach. However, to construct qualitatively different configurations, say, one that becomes in the BPS limit a three-centre Bena-Warner solution requires novel techniques. In this regard the inverse scattering method recently developed for STU supergravity [51, 52] is the most promising. We hope to report on some of these issues in our future work.

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<sup>8</sup>We thank Simon Ross for pointing this out to us.

## A Construction of supergravity configuration

In this appendix we present a construction of the supergravity configuration in which we look for smooth microstates discussed in the main text. The construction below parallels that of Giusto, Ross, and Saxena (GRS) [31] in its overall logic, however the details are quite different. The key difference is that we use the three-dimensional dualities of the dimensionally reduced STU supergravity, whereas GRS use ten-dimensional S and T dualities. In particular, our specific approach is to use  $SO(4,4)$  dualities applied to an appropriate “seed” solution. The  $SO(4,4)$  approach offers a number of technical advantages. First, in our approach all dualities are implemented as group rotations, as opposed to the approach of GRS where only some dualities are implemented as group rotations and the rest as boosts and S- and T-dualities in 10 dimensions. Second, to implement S- and T-dualities in the GRS approach certain complicated Hodge dualizations are required at intermediate steps, the analogs of which are more systematically implemented in our approach.

### A.1 Formalism briefly

Here we introduce our notation and present the set up we work with. For a more detailed discussion of these things in the same notation as below, we refer the reader to [53]. We reduce to three dimensions in steps, giving special attention to five and six dimensions.

Recall that a well known truncation of IIB supergravity on a  $T^4$  is

$$ds_{10,\text{string}}^2 = ds_6^2 + e^{\frac{\Phi}{\sqrt{2}}} ds_4^2, \quad \Phi_{10} = \frac{\Phi}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad C_{[2]}^{\text{RR}} = C_{[2]}, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where  $ds_4^2$  is the flat metric on  $T^4$  and  $C_{[2]}^{\text{RR}}$  is the Ramond-Ramond two-form. The truncated Lagrangian becomes

$$\mathcal{L}_6 = R_6 \star 1 - \frac{1}{2} \star d\Phi \wedge d\Phi - \frac{1}{2} e^{\sqrt{2}\Phi} \star F_{[3]} \wedge F_{[3]}, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

with the field strength  $F_{[3]} = dC_{[2]}$ . Upon further dimensional reduction on a circle, the six-dimensional theory (A.2) reduces to the  $U(1)^3$  supergravity in 5d. This dimensional reduction proceeds as follows

$$ds_6^2 = e^{-\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\Psi} (dz_6 + A_{[1]}^1)^2 + e^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\Psi} ds_5^2 \quad (\text{A.3})$$

$$F_{[3]} = F_{[3]}^{(5d)} + dA_{[1]}^2 \wedge (dz + A_{[1]}^1) \quad (\text{A.4})$$

with

$$F_{[3]}^{(5d)} = dC_{[2]}^{(5d)} - dA_{[1]}^2 \wedge A_{[1]}^1. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

After dualization of the 5d 2-form  $C_{[2]}^{(5d)}$  into a one-form  $A_{[1]}^3$  we get the Lagrangian of the five-dimensional  $U(1)^3$  supergravity. Details of this construction can be found in for example appendix A of [53]. It takes the form

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_5 = & R_5 \star_5 1 - \frac{1}{2} \star_5 d\Phi \wedge d\Phi - \frac{1}{2} \star_5 d\Psi \wedge d\Psi \\ & - \frac{1}{2} e^{-2\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\Psi} \star_5 F_{[2]}^1 \wedge F_{[2]}^1 - \frac{1}{2} e^{\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\Psi + \sqrt{2}\Phi} \star_5 F_{[2]}^2 \wedge F_{[2]}^2 \\ & - \frac{1}{2} e^{\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\Psi - \sqrt{2}\Phi} \star_5 F_{[2]}^3 \wedge F_{[2]}^3 + A_{[1]}^3 \wedge F_{[2]}^2 \wedge F_{[2]}^1.\end{aligned}\quad (\text{A.6})$$

where the  $U(1)^3$  supergravity scalars are parameterized as

$$h^1 = e^{\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\Psi}, \quad h^2 = e^{-\sqrt{\frac{1}{6}}\Psi - \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}\Phi}, \quad h^3 = e^{-\sqrt{\frac{1}{6}}\Psi + \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}}\Phi}.\quad (\text{A.7})$$

Evidently  $h^1 h^2 h^3 = 1$ . A manifestly triality invariant form for the 5d Lagrangian can also be readily written. The 6d field strength  $F_{[3]}$  in terms of the 5d fields introduced above is:

$$F_{[3]} = -(h^3)^{-2} \star_5 dA_{[1]}^3 + dA_{[1]}^2 \wedge (dz_6 + A_{[1]}^1).\quad (\text{A.8})$$

Upon further dimensional reduction to four dimensions via the ansatz

$$ds_5^2 = f^2 (dz + \check{A}_{[1]}^0)^2 + f^{-1} ds_4^2,\quad (\text{A.9})$$

$$A_{[1]}^I = \chi^I (dz + \check{A}_{[1]}^0) + \check{A}_{[1]}^I,\quad (\text{A.10})$$

we get the  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  STU model. For the STU model the number of vector-multiplets is three and the prepotential is

$$F(X) = -\frac{X^1 X^2 X^3}{X^0}.\quad (\text{A.11})$$

We use the gauge fixing condition  $X^0 = 1$ . The scalars  $\chi^I$  obtained from equation (A.10) and  $h^I$  from equation (A.7) together form the complex scalars  $z^I = X^I / X^0$  of the STU theory as

$$z^I = -\chi^I + i f h^I \equiv x^I + i y^I.\quad (\text{A.12})$$

Further dimensional reduction over time gives an  $SO(4,4)/(SO(2,2) \times SO(2,2))$  coset model. To this end we parameterize our 4d metric as

$$ds_4^2 = -e^{2U} (dt + \omega_3)^2 + e^{-2U} ds_3^2,\quad (\text{A.13})$$

and 4d vectors as

$$\check{A}_{[1]}^\Lambda = \zeta^\Lambda (dt + \omega_3) + A_3^\Lambda,\quad (\text{A.14})$$

where  $\omega_3$  and  $A_3^\Lambda$  are 1-forms in 3d. We dualize the 1-forms as [54, 55]

$$-d\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda = e^{2U} (\text{Im} N)_{\Lambda\Sigma} \star_3 (dA_3^\Sigma + \zeta^\Sigma d\omega_3) + (\text{Re} N)_{\Lambda\Sigma} d\zeta^\Sigma\quad (\text{A.15})$$



and

$$-d\sigma = 2e^{4U} \star_3 d\omega_3 - \zeta^\Lambda d\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda + \tilde{\zeta}^\Lambda d\zeta_\Lambda. \quad (\text{A.16})$$

From equations (A.15) and (A.16) it follows that  $\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda$  and  $\sigma$  are pseudo-scalars dual to  $A_3^\Lambda$  and  $\omega_3$  respectively. Putting together various pieces from above, we see that there are in total sixteen three-dimensional scalars

$$\varphi^a = \{U, z^I, \bar{z}^I, \zeta^\Lambda, \tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda, \sigma\}. \quad (\text{A.17})$$

These scalars parameterize an  $\text{SO}(4,4)/(\text{SO}(2,2) \times \text{SO}(2,2))$  coset model. The Lagrangian in three dimensions is

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = R \star_3 \mathbf{1} - \frac{1}{2} G_{ab} \partial\varphi^a \partial\varphi^b, \quad (\text{A.18})$$

where  $G_{ab}$  is the bi-invariant metric of signature (8,8) on the coset  $\text{SO}(4,4)/(\text{SO}(2,2) \times \text{SO}(2,2))$ . The metric  $G_{ab}$  is an analytic continuation of the Ferrara-Sabharwal c-map [56]. Certain details on the parametrization of  $G_{ab}$  are collected in appendix B.1.

To construct the supergravity configuration we are interested in, we use the solution generating technique based on the above obtained  $\text{SO}(4,4)/(\text{SO}(2,2) \times \text{SO}(2,2))$  coset model. We start with a six-dimensional seed solution and dimensionally reduce it to three dimensions. The 4d to 3d reduction is done over the time direction. We then act on the seed scalars with an appropriate  $\text{SO}(4,4)$  group element. After this group rotation, we obtain a new set of scalars, which can be uplifted to obtain a new solution of the higher-dimensional theory.

## A.2 Giusto, Ross, and Saxena (GRS) configuration

In this subsection we present the five-dimensional version of the Giusto, Ross, and Saxena (GRS) six-dimensional configuration [31]. In section 2 we listed all functions appearing in the metric and the matter fields explicitly.

### A.2.1 Seed configuration

As in section 2 of GRS, we first obtain an appropriate seed solution. We reproduce the seed using our  $\text{SO}(4,4)$  approach. Once the seed is obtained adding charges (following section 3 of GRS) is relatively straightforward in the  $\text{SO}(4,4)$  formalism, which we implement in the following. The simplicity of adding charges is one of the key technical advantages our approach offers.

To obtain the seed solution we will use various inputs from references [57, 58] as well. The seed solution carries Kaluza-Klein (KK) electric and magnetic charges. In fact, it is a simple analytic continuation [31] in the parameter space of the Rasheed-Larsen [57, 58] solution.

**Starting metric and starting scalars:** The starting metric we use is the same as that of GRS in six dimensions

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + dz_5^2 + \frac{F}{\rho^2 - (m - bx)^2} \left( dz_6 - \frac{2m\Delta(m - bx)}{bF} d\phi \right)^2 + (\rho^2 - (m - bx)^2) \left[ \frac{d\rho^2}{\Delta} + \frac{dx^2}{1 - x^2} + \frac{\Delta}{F} (1 - x^2) d\phi^2 \right], \quad (\text{A.19})$$

where

$$F = \rho^2 + m^2 - b^2 x^2, \quad \Delta = \rho^2 + m^2 - b^2. \quad (\text{A.20})$$

This is the metric of a Kerr-Bolt instanton trivially lifted to six dimensions by adding two flat directions:  $t$  and  $z_5$ . For calculational simplicity we use  $x$  instead of the polar coordinate  $\theta$ , the two are related by  $x = \cos \theta$ . Furthermore, as the names suggest, we use the coordinate  $z_6$  to reduce from 6d to 5d, the coordinate  $z_5$  to reduce from 5d to 4d and finally the time coordinate  $t$  to reduce from 4d to 3d. The three-dimensional base metric for the starting solution is

$$ds_3^2 = \frac{F}{\Delta} d\rho^2 + \frac{F}{1 - x^2} dx^2 + (1 - x^2) \Delta d\phi^2, \quad (\text{A.21})$$

and the non-zero three-dimensional scalars are

$$U = \frac{1}{4} \log \left[ \frac{F}{\rho^2 - (m - bx)^2} \right], \quad (\text{A.22})$$

$$\tilde{\zeta}^1 = -\frac{2m\rho}{\rho^2 - (m - bx)^2}, \quad (\text{A.23})$$

$$y_1 = \frac{1}{y_2} = \frac{1}{y_3} = \left[ \frac{\rho^2 - (m - bx)^2}{F} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}. \quad (\text{A.24})$$

Given these scalars we construct the  $\text{SO}(4,4)$  valued matrix  $\mathcal{M}$  corresponding to the starting solution. The general construction of this matrix is described in appendix B.1. For the starting solution it takes the form

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{f} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & g \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \tilde{f} & -g & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & g & \tilde{f} - \frac{2bgx}{\rho} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -g & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \tilde{f} - \frac{2bgx}{\rho} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{A.25})$$

where we have introduced notation

$$\tilde{f} = 1 - \frac{2m(m - bx)}{m^2 - b^2 x^2 + \rho^2}, \quad g = \frac{2m\rho}{m^2 - b^2 x^2 + \rho^2}. \quad (\text{A.26})$$

This matrix is similar to the corresponding  $\text{SO}(3,3)$  matrix used in [58] and it is also similar to the matrix  $\chi$  used in [31]. The formalisms are however different as they are based on different higher dimensional Lagrangians.

**Group rotation:** Motivated by the analysis of [57, 58] we act with the following group element on the above matrix  $\mathcal{M}$ ,

$$g_G = \exp(\alpha K_{q_1}) \exp(-\beta K_{p^1}) \exp(-\gamma K_0), \quad (\text{A.27})$$

as

$$\mathcal{M}' = g_G^\# \mathcal{M} g_G, \quad (\text{A.28})$$

where  $g_G^\#$  is simply  $g_G^{-1}$  in this case (see appendix B.1). As the name of these generators suggest  $K_{q_1}$  generates one electric charge (an M2 charge from the M-theory perspective) and  $K_{p^1}$  generates one magnetic charge (M5 charge), and  $K_0$  generates the 4d Lorentzian NUT charge. The necessity of acting with  $K_0$  lies in the fact that the group element

$$\exp(\alpha K_{q_1}) \exp(-\beta K_{p^1})$$

in addition to generating electric and magnetic charges also generates a 4d NUT charge, which can be cancelled by appropriately acting with

$$\exp(-\gamma K_0).$$

To achieve this cancellation of the NUT charge we use the relation [57, 31]

$$\tanh \alpha = \sinh \beta \tan 2\gamma. \quad (\text{A.29})$$

As a next step, we change variables similar to the ones introduced in [58]

$$\tan \gamma = \sqrt{\frac{p}{q}} \quad (\text{A.30})$$

$$\sqrt{p^2 + q^2 - 2pq \cosh 2\beta} = m \sinh 2\beta. \quad (\text{A.31})$$

The second of these equations is a bit unwieldy. We note that it can also be written in the following (more useful) form

$$e^{2\beta} = \frac{(\sqrt{p^2 + m^2} - p)(\sqrt{q^2 + m^2} + q)}{m^2}. \quad (\text{A.32})$$

Substituting  $p$  and  $q$  in place of  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  in the matrix  $\mathcal{M}$  is a somewhat tedious exercise. In the end we obtain an  $8 \times 8$  matrix from which we can read various 3d scalars.

**Three dimensional fields: seed metric:** The non-zero three-dimensional scalars for the seed solution take the following form,

$$y_1 = \frac{1}{y_2} = \frac{1}{y_3} = \sqrt{\frac{T_1}{T_2}}, \quad (\text{A.33})$$

$$\zeta^1 = \frac{2\sqrt{q}\sqrt{p+q}(m\sqrt{q^2+m^2}(p+\rho) - bq\sqrt{p^2+m^2}x)}{T_2}, \quad (\text{A.34})$$

$$\tilde{\zeta}_1 = -\frac{2\sqrt{p}\sqrt{p+q}(bp\sqrt{q^2+m^2}x + m\sqrt{p^2+m^2}(q+\rho))}{T_1}, \quad (\text{A.35})$$

$$e^{2U} = \frac{m(p+q)F}{\sqrt{T_1 T_2}}, \quad (\text{A.36})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma = & \frac{4\sqrt{pq}}{T_1 T_2} \left\{ m^2(p-q)\sqrt{(p^2+m^2)(q^2+m^2)}(-m^2+qp+p(q+\rho)) \right. \\ & + mbx(p+q)(m^4+(p^2+(q+\rho)p+q^2+\rho^2+q\rho)m^2-pq\rho(p+q+\rho)) \\ & + b^2x^2(p-q)(m^2-pq)\sqrt{(p^2+m^2)(q^2+m^2)} \\ & \left. + mb^3x^3(p+q)(pq-m^2) \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.37})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 = & (q-p)m^3 + (2qp^2 - b^2x^2p + 2(p+q)\rho p - b^2qx^2 + (p+q)\rho^2)m \\ & + 2bp\sqrt{(p^2+m^2)(q^2+m^2)}x, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.38})$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_2 = & (p-q)m^3 + (2pq^2 - b^2x^2q + 2(p+q)\rho q - b^2px^2 + (p+q)\rho^2)m \\ & - 2bq\sqrt{(p^2+m^2)(q^2+m^2)}x. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.39})$$

**Final 5d fields:** Now that we have all scalars we can write the final five-dimensional solution by dualizing the appropriate scalars into one forms. For this solution we need to do only two such dualizations. We get

$$\omega_3 = -\frac{2b\sqrt{p}\sqrt{q}(1-x^2)(m^2(p+q+\rho) - pq\rho)}{m(p+q)(m^2-b^2x^2+\rho^2)}d\phi, \quad (\text{A.40})$$

and

$$A_3^1 = \frac{2\sqrt{p}}{\sqrt{p+q}F} \left[ \sqrt{p^2+m^2}\Delta x - \frac{b\sqrt{q^2+m^2}}{m}(\rho p - m^2)(1-x^2) \right] d\phi. \quad (\text{A.41})$$

We can lift these 3d fields to 4d fields using (A.13) and (A.14). The 4d vector  $\check{A}_{[1]}^1$  are

$$\check{A}_{[1]}^1 = \zeta^1(dt + \omega_3) + A_3^1 = \zeta^1 dt + (\zeta^1\omega_3\phi + A_3^1\phi)d\phi. \quad (\text{A.42})$$

The function  $f$  required in going from 4d to 5d is  $f = \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right)^{\frac{1}{6}}$ . As a result the 5d metric is

$$\begin{aligned}
ds_5^2 &= f^2 dz_5^2 + f^{-1} ds_4^2, \\
&= \left(\frac{T_2}{T_1}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} dz_5^2 + \left(\frac{T_1}{T_2}\right)^{\frac{1}{6}} \left[ -\frac{m(p+q)F}{\sqrt{T_1 T_2}} (dt + \omega_\phi d\phi)^2 + \frac{\sqrt{T_1 T_2}}{m(p+q)F} ds_3^2 \right], \\
&= T_1^{-1/3} T_2^{1/3} dz_5^2 - T_1^{-1/3} T_2^{-2/3} (m(p+q)F) (dt + \omega_\phi d\phi)^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{T_1^{2/3} T_2^{1/3}}{m(p+q)} \left( \frac{d\rho^2}{\Delta} + \frac{dx^2}{1-x^2} + (1-x^2) \frac{\Delta}{F} d\phi^2 \right). \tag{A.43}
\end{aligned}$$

The 5d vectors are

$$A_{[1]}^1 = \zeta^1 dt + (\zeta^1 \omega_{3\phi} + A_{3\phi}^1) d\phi, \quad A_{[1]}^2 = 0 \quad A_{[1]}^3 = 0, \tag{A.44}$$

and the 5d scalars are

$$h_1 = T_1^{2/3} T_2^{-2/3}, \quad h_2 = T_1^{-1/3} T_2^{1/3}, \quad h_3 = T_1^{-1/3} T_2^{1/3}. \tag{A.45}$$

**6d lift and comparison with GRS:** The 6d lift is therefore

$$ds_6^2 = e^{-\sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}\Psi} (dz_6 + A_{[1]}^1)^2 + e^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\Psi} ds_5^2, \tag{A.46}$$

$$= \frac{T_2}{T_1} (dz_6 + A_{[1]}^1)^2 + T_1^{1/3} T_2^{-1/3} ds_5^2, \tag{A.47}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{T_2}{T_1} (dz_6 + \zeta^1 dt + (\zeta^1 \omega_{3\phi} + A_{3\phi}^1) d\phi)^2 + dz_5^2 - \frac{(m(p+q)F)}{T_2} (dt + \omega_\phi d\phi)^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{T_1}{m(p+q)} \left( \frac{d\rho^2}{\Delta} + \frac{dx^2}{1-x^2} + (1-x^2) \frac{\Delta}{F} d\phi^2 \right), \tag{A.48}
\end{aligned}$$

and the three-form  $F_{[3]}$  is identically zero. We are now in position to compare this metric with the GRS seed metric [31]. The two metrics are *exactly* the same. A dictionary between our notation and the notation of GRS is as follows (left-hand side is our notation and the right-hand side is GRS notation)

$$\frac{T_1}{m(p+q)} = A, \tag{A.49}$$

$$\frac{T_2}{m(p+q)} = B, \tag{A.50}$$

$$\omega_3 = \omega^0, \tag{A.51}$$

$$F = f_{\text{GRS}}^2, \tag{A.52}$$

$$\zeta^1 = \frac{C}{B}, \tag{A.53}$$

$$A_{3\phi}^1 = \omega^1. \tag{A.54}$$

**Change of gauge:** Before we proceed to adding charges, we take care of one more technicality at this stage. This is a constant shift in the value of  $\sigma$ . This change of gauge is implemented in section 3.2 of reference [31]. Constant shifts in  $\sigma$  are implemented by the  $\text{SO}(4,4)$  generator  $E_0$ . We act on the previously obtained matrix  $\mathcal{M}$  with

$$g_G = \exp[-\alpha E_0], \quad (\text{A.55})$$

which amounts of simply shifting  $\sigma$  to  $\sigma + 2\alpha$ . Since  $V_0$  in reference [31] corresponds to the following combination of scalars in our approach

$$V_0 = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma + \zeta^1 \tilde{\zeta}^1), \quad (\text{A.56})$$

the shift in  $\sigma$  is equivalent to a shift in  $V_0$ ,

$$V_0 \rightarrow V_0 + \alpha. \quad (\text{A.57})$$

We choose

$$\alpha = -\sqrt{\frac{q(q^2 + m^2)}{p(p^2 + m^2)}}. \quad (\text{A.58})$$

As a result the new expression for  $V_0$  becomes

$$V_0 = -\frac{1}{A} \sqrt{\frac{q(q^2 + m^2)}{p(p^2 + m^2)}} \left[ F + 2p \left( \rho + p + \frac{qb}{m} \sqrt{\frac{p^2 + m^2}{q^2 + m^2}} x \right) \right], \quad (\text{A.59})$$

and the rest of the 3d scalars remain unchanged.

For the study of asymptotic properties of the five-dimensional metric written in the main text, it is useful to first ‘undo’ this gauge transformation and then do asymptotic expansions.

### A.2.2 Adding magnetic charges

Now we add two further magnetic charges on the seed solution. We act on the previously obtained matrix  $\mathcal{M}$  with the group element

$$g = \exp(\alpha_2 K_{p^2}) \exp(\alpha_3 K_{p^3}), \quad (\text{A.60})$$

to obtain the matrix  $\mathcal{M}$  for the final configuration. To avoid notational clutter we use

$$s_2 = \sinh \alpha_2, \quad s_3 = \sinh \alpha_3, \quad c_2 = \cosh \alpha_2, \quad c_3 = \cosh \alpha_3. \quad (\text{A.61})$$

To write the final configuration, we need to introduce some more notation. For the ease of comparing with [31] we mostly use their notation in the following. Most of the quantities are

already introduced above. Let us further define

$$D = Bc_2^2c_3^2 - F(c_2^2s_3^2 + s_2^2c_3^2) + \frac{F^2}{B}s_2^2s_3^2 - \frac{C^2F}{AB}s_2^2s_3^2, \quad (\text{A.62})$$

$$G = \frac{AF - C^2}{B}, \quad (\text{A.63})$$

$$\tilde{H}_{2,3} = A + (A - G)s_{2,3}^2. \quad (\text{A.64})$$

Using judiciously the previous notation we can write all the resulting three-dimensional scalars as follows.

**Three-dimensional fields:** The names  $\sigma_{\text{seed}}$ ,  $\zeta^1_{\text{seed}}$ ,  $\tilde{\zeta}^1_{\text{seed}}$  refer to the expressions for  $\sigma$ ,  $\zeta^1$ , and  $\tilde{\zeta}^1$  reported in the previous subsection for the seed solution. We have

$$x_1 = \frac{As_2s_3V_0}{D + As_2^2s_3^2V_0^2}, \quad x_2 = c_2s_3\frac{C}{\tilde{H}_3}, \quad x_3 = c_3s_2\frac{C}{\tilde{H}_2}, \quad (\text{A.65})$$

$$y_1 = \frac{\sqrt{AD}}{D + As_2^2s_3^2V_0^2}, \quad y_2 = \frac{\sqrt{AD}}{\tilde{H}_3}, \quad y_3 = \frac{\sqrt{AD}}{\tilde{H}_2}, \quad (\text{A.66})$$

$$\zeta_0 = c_2c_3s_2s_3\frac{CV_0}{D}, \quad \tilde{\zeta}^0 = -s_2s_3\frac{CF}{AD}, \quad (\text{A.67})$$

$$\zeta_1 = c_2c_3\frac{C}{D}, \quad \tilde{\zeta}^1 = \tilde{\zeta}^1_{\text{seed}} + s_2^2s_3^2\frac{CFV_0}{AD}, \quad (\text{A.68})$$

$$\zeta_2 = s_2c_3(Bc_2^2 - Fs_2^2)\frac{V_0}{D}, \quad \tilde{\zeta}_2 = -\frac{c_2s_2}{ABD}(-C^2Fs_3^2 + A(B - \tilde{F})(Bc_3^2 - Fs_3^2)), \quad (\text{A.69})$$

$$\zeta_3 = s_3c_2(Bc_3^2 - Fs_3^2)\frac{V_0}{D}, \quad \tilde{\zeta}_3 = -\frac{c_3s_3}{ABD}(-C^2Fs_2^2 + A(B - \tilde{F})(Bc_2^2 - Fs_2^2)), \quad (\text{A.70})$$

and

$$e^{2U} = \frac{F}{\sqrt{AD}}, \quad \sigma = \frac{ABc_2c_3((B - F)(s_2^2 + s_3^2)V_0 + B\sigma_{\text{seed}})}{A(Bc_2^2 - Fs_2^2)(Bc_3^2 - Fs_3^2) - C^2Fs_2^2s_3^2}. \quad (\text{A.71})$$

As a next step we need to dualize pseudo-scalars  $\tilde{\zeta}^\Lambda$  and  $\sigma$  into 1-forms.

**Dualizations:** Implementing dualizations of the five scalars  $\sigma$  and  $\tilde{\zeta}^\Lambda$  is somewhat tedious. Here we give the final results:

$$\omega_3 = c_2 c_3 \omega_3^{\text{old}} \quad (\text{A.72})$$

$$\equiv c_2 c_3 \omega^0 \quad (\text{A.73})$$

$$A_3^0 = \frac{2b\sqrt{q}\sqrt{p+q}}{m\sqrt{m^2+p^2}F} s_2 s_3 ((p-q+\rho)m^2 + pq\rho) (1-x^2) d\phi \quad (\text{A.74})$$

$$\equiv s_2 s_3 \kappa_0^1 \quad (\text{A.75})$$

$$A_3^1 = \frac{2\sqrt{p}}{\sqrt{p+q}F} \left[ \sqrt{m^2+p^2}\Delta x - \frac{b\sqrt{m^2+q^2}}{m}(1-x^2)(p\rho-m^2) \right] d\phi$$

$$\equiv \omega^1 \quad (\text{A.76})$$

$$A_3^2 = \frac{2}{F} q s_2 c_2 \left[ \Delta x + \sqrt{\frac{q^2+m^2}{p^2+m^2}} \frac{b}{m} (p\rho-m^2)(1-x^2) \right]$$

$$\equiv -s_2 c_2 \kappa_0^0 \quad (\text{A.77})$$

$$A_3^3 = -s_3 c_3 \kappa_0^0 \quad (\text{A.78})$$

where  $\omega^0$ ,  $\kappa_0^1$ ,  $\omega^1$ , and  $\kappa_0^0$  are the same as in equations (2.49), (3.51), (2.50), and (3.52) respectively of [31], and  $\omega_3^{\text{old}}$  is the same as  $\omega_3$  of the solution obtained in the previous subsection. Thus we have successfully obtained all three-dimensional fields to describe it as a solution of 5d  $\text{U}(1)^3$  supergravity. In section 2 we listed all the five-dimensional fields.

## B $\text{SO}(4,4)/(\text{SO}(2,2) \times \text{SO}(2,2))$ coset in three dimensions

### B.1 Parametrization

The metric  $G_{ab}$  in equation (A.18) in our conventions is

$$G_{ab} d\varphi^a d\varphi^b = 4dU^2 + 4g_{I\bar{J}} dz^I dz^{\bar{J}} + \frac{1}{4} e^{-4U} \left( d\sigma + \tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda d\zeta^\Lambda - \zeta^\Lambda d\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda \right)^2$$

$$+ e^{-2U} \left[ (\text{Im}N)_{\Lambda\Sigma} d\zeta^\Lambda d\zeta^\Sigma + ((\text{Im}N)^{-1})^{\Lambda\Sigma} \left( d\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda + (\text{Re}N)_{\Lambda\Xi} d\zeta^\Xi \right) \left( d\tilde{\zeta}_\Sigma + (\text{Re}N)_{\Sigma\Xi} d\zeta^\Xi \right) \right]. \quad (\text{B.1})$$

This metric can be parameterized in the Iwasawa gauge by a coset element  $\mathcal{V}$  of  $\text{SO}(4,4)/(\text{SO}(2,2) \times \text{SO}(2,2))$  as [55]

$$\mathcal{V} = e^{-U H_0} \cdot \left( \prod_{I=1,2,3} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\log y^I) H_I} \cdot e^{-x^I E_I} \right) \cdot e^{-\zeta^\Lambda E_{q\Lambda} - \tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda E_{p\Lambda}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}\sigma E_0}. \quad (\text{B.2})$$

To see this, note that metric (B.1) can also be obtained as

$$G_{ab} d\varphi^a d\varphi^b = \text{Tr}(P_* P_*) \quad (\text{B.3})$$



where

$$P_* = \frac{1}{2}(\theta + \eta' \theta^T \eta'^{-1}) , \quad \eta' = \text{diag}(-1, -1, 1, 1, -1, -1, 1, 1). \quad (\text{B.4})$$

Here  $\eta'$  is the quadratic form preserved by  $\text{SO}(2,2) \times \text{SO}(2,2)$  (in our basis), and  $\theta = d\mathcal{V} \cdot \mathcal{V}^{-1}$  is the Maurer-Cartan 1-form.

Next we define the matrix  $\mathcal{M}$  as  $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{V}^\sharp)\mathcal{V}$ . The operation  $\sharp$  refers to the generalized transposition,

$$\theta^\sharp = \eta' \theta^T \eta'^{-1}, \quad (\text{B.5})$$

for any  $\theta \in \mathfrak{so}(4,4)$ .

Now we list an explicit matrix representation of  $\mathfrak{so}(4,4)$ . Denoting  $E_{ij}$  the  $8 \times 8$  matrix with 1 in the position  $(i, j)$  and 0 elsewhere, the Lie algebra generators are

$H_0 = E_{33} + E_{44} - E_{77} - E_{88}$	$H_1 = E_{33} - E_{44} - E_{77} + E_{88}$
$H_2 = E_{11} + E_{22} - E_{55} - E_{66}$	$H_3 = E_{11} - E_{22} - E_{55} + E_{66}$
$E_0 = E_{47} - E_{38}$	$E_1 = E_{87} - E_{34}$
$E_2 = E_{25} - E_{16}$	$E_3 = E_{65} - E_{12}$
$F_0 = E_{74} - E_{83}$	$F_1 = E_{78} - E_{43}$
$F_2 = E_{52} - E_{61}$	$F_3 = E_{56} - E_{21}$
$E_{q_0} = E_{41} - E_{58}$	$E_{q_1} = E_{57} - E_{31}$
$E_{q_2} = E_{46} - E_{28}$	$E_{q_3} = E_{42} - E_{68}$
$F_{q_0} = E_{14} - E_{85}$	$F_{q_1} = E_{75} - E_{13}$
$F_{q_2} = E_{64} - E_{82}$	$F_{q_3} = E_{24} - E_{86}$
$E_{p^0} = E_{17} - E_{35}$	$E_{p^1} = E_{18} - E_{45}$
$E_{p^2} = E_{67} - E_{32}$	$E_{p^3} = E_{27} - E_{36}$
$F_{p^0} = E_{71} - E_{53}$	$F_{p^1} = E_{81} - E_{54}$
$F_{p^2} = E_{76} - E_{23}$	$F_{p^3} = E_{72} - E_{63}$

This basis is identical to the one given in [53, 55].

## B.2 $\text{SO}(2,2) \times \text{SO}(2,2)$ generators

The involution of Lie algebra that defines the coset is simply

$$\tau(\theta) := -\theta^\sharp. \quad (\text{B.6})$$

Lie algebra generators belonging to the denominator subgroup  $\text{SO}(2, 2) \times \text{SO}(2, 2)$  are those which are invariant under the involution; their explicit form is  $x + \tau(x)$ . Such generators are

$K_0 = E_0 - F_0$	$K_1 = E_1 - F_1$
$K_2 = E_2 - F_2$	$K_3 = E_3 - F_3$
$K_{q_0} = E_{q_0} + F_{q_0}$	$K_{q_1} = E_{q_1} + F_{q_1}$
$K_{q_2} = E_{q_2} + F_{q_2}$	$K_{q_3} = E_{q_3} + F_{q_3}$
$K_{p^0} = E_{p^0} + F_{p^0}$	$K_{p^1} = E_{p^1} + F_{p^1}$
$K_{p^2} = E_{p^2} + F_{p^2}$	$K_{p^3} = E_{p^3} + F_{p^3}$

(B.7)

To see that these generators form an  $\mathfrak{so}(2, 2) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(2, 2) \equiv [\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})^4]$  Lie algebra, consider the following combinations of the above generators [52]

$h_1 = \frac{1}{2}(-K_{q_0} + K_{p^1} + K_{p^2} + K_{p^3})$ $h_2 = \frac{1}{2}(+K_{q_0} - K_{p^1} + K_{p^2} + K_{p^3})$ $h_3 = \frac{1}{2}(+K_{q_0} + K_{p^1} - K_{p^2} + K_{p^3})$ $h_4 = \frac{1}{2}(+K_{q_0} + K_{p^1} + K_{p^2} - K_{p^3})$
$e_1 = \frac{1}{4}(-K_0 + K_1 + K_2 + K_3 + K_{q_1} + K_{q_2} + K_{q_3} + K_{p^0})$ $e_2 = \frac{1}{4}(+K_0 - K_1 + K_2 + K_3 + K_{q_1} - K_{q_2} - K_{q_3} + K_{p^0})$ $e_3 = \frac{1}{4}(+K_0 + K_1 - K_2 + K_3 - K_{q_1} + K_{q_2} - K_{q_3} + K_{p^0})$ $e_4 = \frac{1}{4}(+K_0 + K_1 + K_2 - K_3 - K_{q_1} - K_{q_2} + K_{q_3} + K_{p^0})$
$f_1 = \frac{1}{4}(+K_0 - K_1 - K_2 - K_3 + K_{q_1} + K_{q_2} + K_{q_3} + K_{p^0})$ $f_2 = \frac{1}{4}(-K_0 + K_1 - K_2 - K_3 + K_{q_1} - K_{q_2} - K_{q_3} + K_{p^0})$ $f_3 = \frac{1}{4}(-K_0 - K_1 + K_2 - K_3 - K_{q_1} + K_{q_2} - K_{q_3} + K_{p^0})$ $f_4 = \frac{1}{4}(-K_0 - K_1 - K_2 + K_3 - K_{q_1} - K_{q_2} + K_{q_3} + K_{p^0})$

(B.8)

These linear combinations manifest the four commuting  $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$ s —  $(h_i, e_i, f_i)$  with commutation relations  $[h_i, e_i] = 2e_i, [h_i, f_i] = -2f_i, [e_i, f_i] = h_i$ .

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